Mr. Mummadi H. C. Veerabhadrappa.—

Are Government aware that this tank can be repaired at a small cost?

Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.—

May be; but Government have no intention of repairing it.

Mr. B. Sitaramiah.—

What is the extent of its *atchkat*?

Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.—

Notice.

Mr. B. Sitaramiah.—

When the tank is abandoned, should not the raiyats get some compensation?

Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.—

Not necessarily, but only some reduction in the rate of wet assessment.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

When was the report made that Borankanive Tank supply would be cut off if the Ankasandra Tank was restored; and when was that question investigated?

Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.—

At the time of building the Borankanive Tank.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

Are Government aware that much water is going to waste in the middle before reaching the Borankanive Tank? Will they investigate it again?

First Member of Council.—

There is no need for an investigation.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET.

On a point of information, MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA enquired whether a member was in order in giving notice of his resolutions on the budget even before the receipt of the

budget by him. He represented that this point arose out of the fact that though he sent up his resolutions the very day of the receipt of the budget by him, *viz.*, 24th May 1933, the resolutions of some other member (Mr. Hosakoppa Krishna Rao) had been given priority in the printed list. This showed that the latter must have given notice of his resolutions even before the receipt of the budget.

THE DEWAN stated that the present procedure would be examined to see if it required any revision.

Resolution No. 1.

MR. HOSAKOPPA KRISHNA RAO moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly is of opinion that the time has come when Government should make strenuous effort to cut down its administrative expenditure in order to bring about surpluses in the budget to make larger grants available for Development Departments and to give raiyats needed relief by way of reduction in the taxation and recommends to Government that further cuts in the salaries of higher grades of service and the abolition of various offices which are not really necessary be embodied in the budget at once."

He said that the question of reduction of pay and retrenchment of posts was not a new subject to the Assembly. Though it related to the budget under discussion, the points involved in the resolution were of a general character, and the policy underlying it had already been accepted by the Government. Even though Government had ordered a cut in salaries of its officers, the savings were very small. He should have preferred a saving of at least Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 lakhs being effected from it annually. If, under the existing circumstances, the State's finances should be stabilised, he thought it necessary to make drastic retrenchments in the number of appointments in the State service, as well as a substantial reduction in the scale of salaries. Whenever the latter question was raised on the floor of the Assembly, the reply of Government invariably was that salaries obtaining in Mysore were by no means high and that if they were not made sufficiently attractive, there would be discontentment in the service and the best men would not stick to it. This kind of argument failed to convince him. He admitted that there might have been justification for fixing the scales of pay so high in olden days when a sufficient number of educated men were not available locally. But now, there was no longer the need for importing people from outside and local men did not insist on such high salaries. There need

be no fear of efficiency being impaired as a result of lowering the existing scales of pay. By keeping down the cost of administration, not only would the finances improve, but the Government would be able to take on hand some development works to promote the economic position of the people. He said that the cut in salaries now ordered being nominal, there was no room for the apprehension expressed in the Dewan's Address that further reductions would impair efficiency and dislocate the service. He did not want salaries below Rs. 200 to be interfered with, as he felt that even the cut already effected in their case was unjust. He then recommended a graduated scale of cuts as follows:—

From Rs. 201 to Rs. 500	...	10 per cent
„ Rs. 501 to Rs. 1,000	...	25 „
Above Rs. 1,000 ...	...	33⅓ „

Mr. Krishna Rao expected a saving of Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs to result from the adoption of the above scale.

He next suggested the abolition and amalgamation of appointments as under:—

(1) The Revenue Commissioner's appointment was unnecessary. The work of the Deputy Commissioners, who were effective representatives of Government in the districts, might be supervised by the Executive Councillor in charge of the Revenue portfolio.

(2) The posts of Director of Geology and Chief Inspector of Mines could be combined.

(3) As the arguments for the abolition of the Revenue Commissionership applied equally to the Excise Commissionership, he said that this latter appointment too might go. If, however, the appointment of Revenue Commissioner was considered necessary, then it might be combined with that of the Excise Commissioner.

(4) The budget of the coming year provided for the revival of the post of the Superintendent of Revenue Survey which had been retrenched last year. This provision was quite unnecessary. Some of the Assistant Superintendents' appointments also could be abolished.

(5) The duties of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies might be entrusted to the Director of Industries as there was no longer the need for intensive propaganda in co-operative matters and what little remained to be done could well be done by the Provincial and the Apex Banks.

(6) The post of the Director of Public Health was a superfluity and deserved to go. The work done by him might be undertaken by the Medical Department itself.

(7) The pay of the Director of Agriculture was capable of substantial reduction. The raiyats never believed that such a high pay as Rs. 2,500 given to the Head of this department would bring them any benefit whatever. Several of the sectional heads drawing fat salaries might also be dispensed with.

(8) The posts of Superintending Engineers might easily be abolished as there was no need for so many intermediaries between the Chief Engineer and the Executive Engineers. If it was found very necessary, only one Superintending Engineer's place might be continued.

(9) The duties of the Financial Secretary to Government could be easily entrusted to the Comptroller and one of the appointments retrenched. The appointments of two of the Secretaries to Government were capable of amalgamation, *viz.*, those of the General and the Development Secretaries. The number of Superintendents in the Secretariat was also capable of reduction.

(10) District administration at present was too costly. Abolition of one of the districts in the State coupled with a redistribution of districts and taluks, would result in a saving of at least Rs. 24,000 as recommended by the recent Retrenchment Committee.

In conclusion, the member said that if these proposals were accepted by Government, they would be able to ensure better progress for the people and the State as a whole.

Mr. K. Venkataswami Iya seconded the resolution with the modification that he did not agree with the particular rates of cuts suggested by the mover. He commended the action of Government in restoring 50 per cent of the cut in the salaries of officers on Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 and suggested that the deficiency of Rs. 80,000 caused thereby should be made up by further cuts in the salaries of officers drawing Rs. 200 and upwards.

In supporting the resolution, Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar said that salaries in Mysore were too high and should be reduced considerably. The Prime Minister of England who was in charge of an Empire on which the Sun never sets, was getting only Rs. 6,000, whereas a small State like Mysore with an income of only 1½ annas *per capita* was paying its Dewan Rs. 5,000. He thought that this could be reduced by 50 per cent. Japan, one of the most progressive countries of the world, was paying its Prime Minister only Rs. 1,000, whereas a Deputy Commissioner here carried away as much salary. The Mysore Executive Councillors were each

being paid twice as much as the Prime Minister of Japan. While the Provincial Governors of Japan were drawing a salary of Rs. 1,000, the pay of the Inspector General of Police in Mysore was fixed at Rs. 1,700—the highest pay allowed for the post in any country in the world—the corresponding figures in the United States of America, Ireland and Japan being Rs. 933, Rs. 1,375 and Rs. 1,000, respectively. That the administration of the Agricultural Department was top-heavy had been noticed by the Retrenchment Committees. Out of a grant of Rs. 4 lakhs allotted to this department, Rs. 3 lakhs went towards the cost of establishment, travelling allowance and contingencies. The raiyat could never bring himself to believe that the payment of Rs. 2,500 to the Director of Agriculture was a guarantee of progress in agriculture. In spite of all that the department was doing, the poor raiyat was never able to grow one more grain of ragi per acre than his forefathers, nor was one new useful crop introduced. The result of the working of the department did not justify such a large expenditure incurred on it. The Retrenchment Committee had also opined that there was no need for maintaining experimental farms like the Coffee Breeding Station and the Nagenahalli Farm. The speaker urged the adoption of this suggestion as well as the cuts in salaries as recommended by the mover. In conclusion, he said that if Government would not heed the opinions expressed by the members, it would only mean that the Representative Assembly served no useful purpose and therefore did not deserve to exist.

MR. T. SIDDALINGIAH, in further supporting the resolution, remarked that even though the members of the Assembly were urging on the attention of Government, from time to time, the necessity of reducing the cost of administration, Government were turning a deaf ear to them. Under the existing constitution, the members had no effective voice in controlling the affairs of the State. He appealed to the officers of Government to remember that they were paid representatives of the people and that it was their obligatory duty to provide the people in rural areas with prime necessaries of life like good water, medical aid, communications and educational facilities. If this was not done, he was afraid that discontentment which was already gaining strength in all parts of the State would soon develop into open revolt.

The people had begun to feel that the representations of elected members were seldom cared for by the Govern-

ment, that therefore the meetings of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council were mere shows and that nothing would be lost even if the so-called constitutional bodies were abolished. He, therefore, urged on the Government the adoption of the proposals outlined in the resolution under discussion, the resulting savings being utilised for improving the economic condition of the people. It was unjust for the Government to run the administration at such a huge cost, especially at a time when the people were in an impoverished condition.

He deprecated the policy of Government in regard to appointments, and referred to an article which appeared in a local journal, *The Visvakarnataka*, giving a long list of sinecure appointments and observed that no contradiction was forthcoming still. When Government wanted to find a place for a particular person, they did not hesitate to create a fresh appointment even in years of financial stringency.

Referring to the appointment of the Director of Public Health, he said that the need for such an appointment would arise only after effecting improvements to the cities and after educating the people in sanitary matters. Improvement of sanitation could best be left to the local boards and municipalities. He would even suggest the establishment of special schools to train people in sanitation under the auspices of the Education Department. At any rate, the amalgamation of the Medical and Sanitary Departments was an urgent necessity.

In connection with the question of salaries of officers, Mr. Siddalingiah did not believe that efficiency would suffer by the reduction of pay. High salaries were being justified by Government on the ground that they would keep the officers above temptation. But that was not always true. High pay and honesty did not always go together. He considered it a bad policy to give extra allowances for extra work assigned. After all, no officer would put in more work than he possibly could, simply because his emoluments were improved.

The scales of travelling allowances were also very high. He was quite sure that if the same officers travelled on their own business, they would certainly travel in lower classes than those in which they were actually required to travel while on Government duty.

In this connection, he also pointed out that in America the salary paid to the Governor of a State was only 7,500 dollars or Rs. 25,000 per year, which worked out at

Rs. 2,000 and odd per month. It was status that counted there, more than the salary drawn. The revenues derived by those States were 20 to 30 times larger than those of Mysore, and the economic condition of the people was several times better than that of Mysoreans. Even in England, the daily average income of a person was 3·25 shillings as against 9½ pies in Mysore. In spite of this circumstance, the scales of salaries in Mysore were disproportionately higher than those in England. Another peculiarity in this State was that the gulf between the higher and the next lower appointment was very wide, *e.g.*, the pay of a Deputy Commissioner and that of his Personal Assistant.

Referring to Education, he pointed out that in Western countries, Vice-Chancellors of Universities were given teaching work besides organization and control, and the routine administrative work was entrusted to the Registrar. He thought that this system might be copied by Mysore. In this view, he suggested that the routine work of many of the departments could be looked after by the Personal Assistants, leaving the Head of the department free to attend to higher work of the department, so that the State might derive an adequate return for the high salaries paid to its officers.

He also thought that by reducing the existing number of holidays, it would be possible to manage with fewer hands and thus effect some savings under establishment charges.

In conclusion, he expressed a fervent hope that Government would accept the resolution and give effect to the proposals contained therein.

In opposing the resolution, Mr. M. S. Linge Gowda said that those members who supported it did so on the ground that the raiyats' money was being mis-spent by the Government. Personally he would not endorse such an opinion though Government should see that they got an adequate return for the amount spent on their establishments. There was no use comparing the scales of salaries paid in the United States of America or Japan with those in this State. Even in those countries, salaries were sometimes much higher than here. In fact, one of the Engineers in America was being paid the highest salary in the world. But, generally speaking, it would be more logical to look at the scales prevailing in the presidencies adjoining the State. Such a comparison would show that the salaries paid by the State were not too high. If the salaries were reduced as suggested, the services were sure to get demoralised. Not

only that. Many of the officers might seek employment elsewhere, because they had the chance of getting higher salaries. Such things had really happened in the past.

The speaker said that the Amildars of the past, were discharging the duties of the Assistant Commissioners of the present day. This showed that supervision was somewhat lacking at present. Speaking of the services in general, efficiency had suffered in recent years and it should be improved. That was the proper way of ensuring an adequate return for salaries given. Originally, there were about 125,000 labourers in the Ford Factory, but that number had now been reduced to 50,000. All the same, they turned out double the work now. That was because the labourers were given high enough wages and were kept above want. It might be that in the Servants of India Society and some other institutions, very low salaries were paid. But there, people served with a patriotic motive and in a missionary spirit. Such a spirit should come from within the hearts of men and could not be forced on them.

For these reasons, he thought that the reduction of salaries was not a wise step and opposed the resolution.

Mr. B. Oosman Khan also opposed the resolution. In doing so, he said that the resolution was made up of two parts, first that the salaries of officers should be reduced and secondly that offices not really necessary should be abolished. As the resolution did not state specifically which of the departments were unnecessary, he said he could not offer any remarks on that part of the resolution, but would confine himself to the portion relating to the reduction of salaries of higher officers.

Referring to the statement made by the previous speakers that the salary of the Prime Minister of England was very low, Mr. Oosman Khan, said that the Prime Minister was an honorary worker like a District Board President and what was paid to him was only an allowance. He was also an elected Member of the Parliament whose term of office would last for a few years. So, the appointment of Prime Minister did not stand on all fours with that of the Dewan of Mysore.

Continuing, the speaker said that he was afraid that as the grades of pay were fixed 50 or 60 years ago, the Government had no authority to reduce them in the case of those already in receipt of such salaries; if at all, they might reduce the scales of salaries in the case of future entrants.

Mr. Oosman Khan, also pointed out that Mysore was not the only State which was paying high salaries to their officers. Other Indian States and the Government of India were paying much higher salaries. The pay of an officer must be such as to enable him to maintain his dignity consistent with the responsibilities attached to his office. After all, it was not the person as such that was paid; it was his education, experience, brain-power and usefulness that were paid for. If those things were taken into consideration, the salaries of Mysore officers were not very high. But if the Government wanted to effect large savings, they might make all the appointments from the Dewan downwards honorary, elect them once in three or four years and face the music for some time.

Continuing, the speaker said that as the markets were well supplied and food grains could be had cheap he would question the statement that the tax-payers were starving and could not bear the burdens imposed on them by a costly Administration. The difficulties of the present day were due to the artificial life lived and other outside causes. None of the raiyats had so far resigned their lands on the ground that assessment was high. On the other hand, applications for lands were increasing. It was no doubt true that they were suffering on account of trade depression, but that was only a temporary phase which would vanish in the course of a few years.

Referring to the statement made by some of the members that personal allowances to certain officers were unnecessary, the speaker said that Government who were the pay-masters were the best judges in the matter and if, in their opinion, it was considered unnecessary to pay any allowance to any officer, they would abolish it immediately.

Mr. H. K. Madaiya said that in view of the fact that primary education had been transferred to the charge of local bodies, the District Educational Officers themselves had not sufficient work. Such being the case, there was no need for the posts of Deputy Directors of Public Instruction. These costly appointments might be abolished, and the amount saved thereby utilised for enhancing the provision for primary education. He also advocated the abolition of the posts of District Health Officers on the ground that those officers had absolutely no work. With these remarks he supported the resolution.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah, who spoke next, also supported the resolution. He said that there was a lot of room for

reduction of expenditure by the combination of departments which did more or less similar work. As an example, he pointed out that the Departments of Industries and Co-operation might be combined and placed in charge of one officer with two assistants to be in charge of the two departments. Similarly the Excise and the Police Departments might be amalgamated into one. If this was done, not only would it be possible for the abolition of a few posts, but through one and the same watch and ward establishment, illicit distillation could also be brought under control.

Mr. Sanjeeviah also said that session after session, members of the House had been emphasizing the necessity for reducing the number of appointments and their scales of pay, but theirs had been a cry in the wilderness. If the Government were not inclined to give any weight to the representations made by the popular House, they might as well abolish the two bodies and thereby effect a saving of one or two lakhs of rupees. Government were doing things as they pleased because they had all the power in their own hands, and people were getting disgusted with their own position. It was up to the Government not to drive them to desperation.

It was a wonder to the speaker that when the Government themselves had formulated a policy of retrenchment, some members should have spoken against reduction of salaries and allowances. It might be that in some other States, salaries were high, but that was no reason why they should be high in Mysore. Each State should fix the salaries of its officers with reference to its own resources. Some members also said that if salaries were reduced, demoralisation would set in. The Government had effected salary cuts for over a year past, but efficiency had not suffered.

Mr. B. S. Puttaswamy said that, as mentioned by Mr. Oosman Khan, there were two suggestions in the resolution, *viz.*, (i) the abolition of unnecessary appointments and (ii) the reduction of salaries of high officers. In respect of the first, previous speakers had made several suggestions and if the Government were earnest in effecting savings in expenditure, they could give effect to some of those suggestions.

As regards reduction of salaries, he said that there seemed to be some difference of opinion. Some were of the opinion that they should not be reduced as it was a matter of contract between the Government and their staff; others were of the opinion that corruption would set in if it was done; and certain others went to the extent of hinting that

legal action would lie against Government if they reduced the salaries of their officers. As a matter of fact, Government reduced the salaries of their officers by certain percentages nearly two years ago, but so far there had been no complaints of fraud or corruption. He was of opinion that there was no sort of connection whatsoever between efficiency and pay. Officers could be classified under three heads broadly, *viz.*—

(1) those who wanted their pay, work or no work,
(2) those who weighed their work with reference to the pay they got, and,
(3) those who regarded pay as a mere means of keeping body and soul together and worked for the good of the State.

He believed that the last class of officers were the best. It might be characterised as mere philosophy; at any rate, it was not necessary to take foreign standards as suitable for this State. Particularly in view of the prevailing depression, it was not proper to fleece the general tax-payer for the sake of paying high salaries to the officers. The speaker said that during his recent visit to England he had occasion to visit the Bedford County Council Office where he was told that due to the economic depression, the Council were contemplating the reduction of the salaries, but that, before they did it, the employees themselves suggested a 10 per cent reduction in their wages. Similarly, he thought that when the whole country was suffering, it was up to the officers also to make a small sacrifice by foregoing a portion of their salaries.

On behalf of the Government, the FINANCIAL SECRETARY observed that the subject was not a new one but had only been brought up in a different shape on the present occasion. The resolution consisted of two parts, *viz.*, reduction of salaries of high officers and abolition of unnecessary posts. In addition, there was also a request in the resolution to the effect that the raiyats should be given relief by way of reduction in taxation. The arguments employed in favour of these points were just the same as those advanced on previous occasions. Government had met those arguments in the past and no useful purpose would be served by repeating them. All that remained to be said now was that Government had already effected all possible retrenchments and yet it was not found possible to improve the budget to the extent of giving relief to raiyats. Government had taken into consideration the exigencies of service and fixed the scales of pay with reference to them. Besides the resolution

was too general and wide and as such Government regretted that it could not be accepted in its present form.

In replying to the debate MR. HOSAKOPPA KRISHNA RAO expressed a feeling of disappointment at the statement made by the Financial Secretary on behalf of Government. He said that all that the Financial Secretary said had already been anticipated by him while moving the resolution and yet no convincing reasons for not accepting the resolution were adduced. Times were fast changing and there were a number of patriotic men now available who could do whole-hearted service to the State on lower salaries. Unless such opportunities were seized by the Government, it would not be possible for them to improve their financial position. Reference had been made to the conditions in certain sister states. But the Mysore State could not be compared with them as they were less progressive. Instead of copying others, the State should give a lead for others to follow. That ought to be the aim of the Government.

The speaker added that this resolution was being tabled session after session with a view to impress upon the Government the need for changing the system of administration. The resolution had the whole-hearted support not only of the House but also of the whole State. If the Government would be pleased to accept the resolution and give effect to it, the raiyats would be benefited to a very great extent. The Government would have to do it sooner or later, and they would do well to do it immediately. Education, medical aid, drinking water wells, rural improvement, etc., were in need of enhanced grants and therefore it was the duty of the Government to accept the resolution and provide necessary relief and facilities for the people. With these remarks he requested the House to unanimously support the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and *passed*, only three voting against.

Resolution No. 3.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that the salaries of all Government Officers getting from Rs. 100 to 250, Rs. 250 to 500, Rs. 500 to 750, Rs. 750 to 1,000 and Rs. 1,000 and above be reduced by 5, 7½, 10, 15 and 20 per cent respectively."

He added that from the reply given by the Government to question No. 33 it was evident that the prices of foodstuffs

had gone down by 30 to 40 per cent and as such the Government officers who were getting monthly salaries were in a position to make large savings. It was for that reason that he proposed the rate of reduction in salaries mentioned in the resolution. He prayed that the resolution be accepted and the savings realised spent on Development Departments.

MR. V. V. IYER in seconding the resolution said that the condition of the raiyats was very deplorable and that they could not realise even their agricultural expenses from the sale of the entire produce. It was needless to say that they were unable to pay the assessment, but failure to pay was followed by coercive measures by the local officers. Many raiyats had sold all their belongings and in addition borrowed money from money-lenders at usurious rates for paying kandayam. It was necessary that at such a time the Government officers also should make some sacrifice and relieve the condition of the raiyats.

MR. P. SUBBARAMA CHETTY, in supporting the resolution, said that the present trade depression had affected only the merchants and agriculturists and not Government servants who were in receipt of pay regularly every month. The markets were well supplied and the prices of foodstuffs and other necessaries of life were cheap. So there, would be no hardship felt by the officials even if the rates of salary were cut increased to 20 per cent. There was no difference of opinion in the matter. Only two of the previous speakers had differed from that view, and the reasons for it were known to all. To the request for a remission of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of revenue assessment, the Government had replied that if it was granted, the revenue would fall considerably. The Government might reduce the pay of their officers and set off the savings to meet the fall in land revenue.

The resolution was put to vote and *passed*, only one voting against.

Resolution No. 11.

MR. B. L. BYANNA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that the allotment of Rs. 50,000 under the head 30. Grants for Public Improvements-6. Drinking Water Wells in Villages be enhanced to Rs. 1,00,000."

He added that there were 17,000 villages in the State and out of them about 10,000 had no drinking water wells. Water was one of the essential requirements of life and Government should not rest content until every village was

provided with a drinking water well. Till that goal was reached, the Mysore State could not be called a model. In the budget estimates, a sum of Rs. 50,000 had been set apart for this purpose. That would not meet the requirements of the situation. It was of course not possible to provide wells in all the villages at one and the same time. But there should be better progress in the matter. For these reasons, he requested that the Government might be pleased to enhance the grant to one lakh of rupees by reducing the grant to that extent under some other head, if necessary.

MR. R. SUBBA RAO seconded the resolution. In doing so, he said that this subject was being pressed upon the attention of the Government year after year, but all the same the grant for the purpose had not increased. On the other hand, the grant was decreasing. For want of good drinking water, the health of the people in the rural parts was deteriorating.

MR. B. GOPALACHAR also supported the resolution.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA said that the Dewan (Sir Mirza Ismail) had in one of his addresses to the House recognised that every village should have a school, a dispensary, and a drinking water well, etc., but that that hope had not yet been realised. Last year out of a grant of Rs. 65,000 made for sinking tube wells, a sum of Rs. 30,000 had been allowed to lapse. When people were agitating for larger grants, it was a pity that even the sanctioned grants were not being completely worked out. No one cared to enquire into the condition of the villages. It was the duty of the Government to realise the difficulties of the people and take measures to provide sufficient number of drinking water wells. In this view, he supported the resolution wholeheartedly.

MR. B. OOSMAN KHAN said that in the past the Government were meeting one-third of the cost of wells in rural parts; one-third was being borne by the District Board concerned and earthwork was being done by the villagers, in lieu of their own contribution. The wells sunk under such an arrangement were of lasting use to the public. But the wells got dug by the technical officers had often failed. The Government would do well to revert to the old order.

On behalf of the Government, the SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that there could be no difference of opinion between the Government and the people in the matter of the necessity for providing drinking water wells in all rural parts; but owing to their present state of finances,

Government had limited the grant for the purpose to Rs. 50,000. However, in view of the representation made by the members, Government were willing to increase the grant by Rs. 25,000 and raise it to Rs. 75,000.

MR. MIR MAHOMED SAB represented that the malnad should get a larger share of the grant for the purpose.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the distribution of the grant was a matter of detail.

MR. G. MALLANNA urged that attempts should be made to see that the entire amount was worked out during the course of the year.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that there need be no fear that grants for drinking water wells would lapse.

MR. B. L. BYANNA, on behalf of the Assembly, thanked the Government for having raised the grant to Rs. 75,000.

At this stage, the Assembly adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 3-30 p.m.

Resolution No. 15.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that provision be made in the budget estimates for 1933-34 to enable Government to meet the necessary expenditure for the rapid expansion of Primary Education in the State."

In doing so, he said that the resolution related to a very important subject, *viz.*, the expansion of primary education, the principle of which had been accepted by all alike. As the resolution indicated, much headway had not been made in the direction of expansion in spite of all that had been done in the past. Till now only about 6 per cent of the subjects of the State had received the benefits of education. On the other hand sister states like Travancore and Baroda had made rapid strides in the field. The main defect in this State was that in many villages there were no primary schools. And even where they existed, there were not enough teachers. In many a village, for one primary school there was only one teacher and he was required to take 4 classes, each of which consisted of as many as 60 to 70 pupils, with the result that no special attention could be paid by him to their training. And further, the teachers were ill paid and there were no prospects of promotion for them. They were naturally dissatisfied with their lot. The result was that

many children would not learn anything for years together. The number of teachers required to be increased and their pay and prospects to be bettered. Again, in many places, primary schools had no buildings. If the Government were asked to provide buildings, they insisted on contributions from the people. But, what could the poor villagers pay out of their meagre earnings? It might be said that consequent upon the transfer of control of primary education to District Boards, it was their responsibility to see to the expansion of primary education. But, what could the District Boards alone do in this matter? With the meagre education cess collections it was impossible for them to provide funds needed for the expansion of primary education. Their finances were already poor. But theirs was the responsibility according to the Regulation. They were therefore in a dilemma. They could neither think of increasing the rate of education cess nor were they able to obtain from the Government sufficient grants. Further, the very idea itself of increasing the education cess would be resented by the raiyats. Hence there was no question of increasing the cess. The only way open to them was to request the Government to provide more grants for the purpose, for Education ought to be the first charge upon the revenues of any State. It would not matter so much if grants for higher grades of education were curtailed, but enhancement of the provision for primary education was absolutely necessary. Although in the resolution it was stated that provision should be made in the budget for 1933-34, his idea was that in the budgets of future years also more and more provision should be made. Otherwise, he thought that it would be better if the responsibility itself was taken back from the local bodies. He was sorry that the ten-year programme which was required to be prepared under the provisions of the Elementary Education Regulation could not be prepared by District Boards since there was no assurance of undiminished availability of funds. He thought that the Regulation needed to be amended suitably so as to require the preparation of schemes for shorter periods. With these words, he commended the resolution to the kind acceptance of the House.

MR. H. K. MADAIYA, in seconding the resolution, observed that the Government had to be thanked for transferring the control over primary education to the local boards. But, at the same time, it had to be said that the transfer was only nominal and not effective. Speaking of the Mysore District,

he said that the District Educational Officer was also the School Board Officer. There were too many schools to be supervised, and owing to pressure of work, his inspections were confined to middle schools only. Hence for want of supervision, primary education suffered. It was therefore necessary that there should be a separate inspecting officer for primary schools and unless that was done he thought the transfer of responsibility would be of no avail.

He also observed that the Chairman of the School Board should be a separate officer. The speaker had no objection however to the District Board President himself being made the Chairman of the School Board. But in that case, his duties as President would suffer and therefore the speaker thought that a separate officer was necessary and funds should be provided therefor. He added that if it was not possible to do so in all districts, it might be done at least in the Mysore District in view of its vast extent and the large number of primary schools in it.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa who spoke next observed that at the time the Elementary Education Regulation was introduced, people breathed a sigh of relief and thought that it was their *Magna Carta*. Since then, how far there was expansion of primary education had to be considered. He for one thought that there was practically no progress. Except adding one more item to the list of statutes, and perhaps also giving an impression to the outside world that Mysore was doing much more in the direction of removal of illiteracy, the Regulation had served no useful purpose up till now. The statement prepared by the Women's Conference at Mysore showed that the extent of illiteracy in the land was appalling. The percentage of literacy among boys was stated to be only 17 and that among girls was stated to be so low as 3, and the average was 10. In these circumstances, he thought it was not just to tax the rate-payers at the present level, for, not even one per cent of their quota went back to them in the form of education. From the point of view of education, health and sanitation, people stood where they were several years ago, and would continue to be so if the state of affairs was not improved. Lots of money were being spent on avoidable items like tarring the Bangalore-Mysore road and beautifying the cities. Lakhs of rupees were being spent on bridges, which very soon gave way. There was no discretion on the part of the Government in the matter of expenditure. All the moneys spent on various departments would be a waste if no adequate

funds were provided for mass education. Not even one or two schools were provided for some of the taluks. Although the District Boards were prepared to give their quota, Government withheld sanction on some ground or other. The present state of affairs in regard to mass education should not be allowed to continue. The Government should see to the economic betterment of the raiyat. They should look to his needs and do everything possible to keep him above want and beyond sickness. Then alone the State would prosper. The extent of the demand for mass education was so much that even if the salaries of officers were reduced by one-half, not all the savings effected thereby would suffice for meeting it. If there was willingness on the part of the Government to provide adequate funds, necessary ways and means could be found out. For instance, the large amounts which were being invested annually on big industrial concerns which resulted in serious losses every year could well be transferred towards the expansion of primary education. Under the present policy what private capitalists might do, the Government were doing, and what the Government should do was being neglected by them. The State had not made any progress for decades together. He was afraid that at the present rate of progress of primary education, not even ten centuries could witness a 50 per cent literacy. He therefore requested the Government to accept the resolution and provide more funds for the purpose.

MR. P. MURUGESAM PILLAY, in supporting the resolution, endorsed the views of the previous speakers in regard to the stagnation in primary education in rural parts. He also pointed out the difficulties felt in villages for want of suitable accommodation for primary schools. Firstly, the number of schools were insufficient. And secondly, there were no buildings at all in some places and the schools were located in either temples or private houses which pupils belonging to depressed classes could not enter. To remedy this state of affairs, he thought it would be better if primary schools were located in Government buildings. For that purpose he requested the Government to provide more funds for the construction of buildings. Incidentally he suggested that as facilities for pupils of depressed classes in the matter of primary education had not in any way improved even after the transfer of control over primary education to District Boards, Government should see how far the benefits of primary education could be extended to pupils of depressed classes by means of additional grants.

He also said that women teachers should be employed instead of male teachers in all primary schools, as the former were better fitted to give proper training and guidance to children.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA requested the Government to provide, for the spread of primary education, at least Rs. 5 lakhs out of the Rs. 17·58 lakhs provided under Depreciation Fund Works.

THE DEWAN observed that the expansion of primary education was no doubt an important measure but progress was restricted by financial limitations.

SRIMATI SAKAMMA in supporting the resolution urged that encouragement should be given for female education also since, so long as girls remained uneducated, the country could not prosper. She requested the Government to provide a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs, of which Rs. 5 lakhs might be spent for boys' education and the remaining Rs. 3 lakhs for girls' education.

MR. J. MAHOMED IMAM requested the Government to accept the resolution and arrange to give a few additional schools every year for each taluk without committing themselves to any particular number.

Referring to grants for primary education in the Bangalore City Municipality, MR. BELUR SRINIVASIENGAR appealed for some special treatment for that city.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, replying on behalf of Government, observed that there was no difference of opinion about the need for educational progress. The Elementary Education Regulation required that each District Board should prepare a scheme of expansion for 10 years. Such a scheme had not been received from any district. Only one District Board had sent up a scheme, but even that had not been correctly prepared. It was true that no primary schools had been started since 1929-30: But, he assured the members that pending the preparation of the scheme, Government would consider how far funds could be provided for schools in very urgent cases provided that local education authorities were prepared to find their share of the cost.

Then, with reference to the request of Mr. H. K. Madaiya for the appointment of separate officers as Chairmen of School Boards, the speaker said that a scheme had been prepared, to give effect to which an additional sum of Rs. 19,000 per annum was required. The District Boards were being consulted on this aspect of the question.

EDDY, in supporting the resolution, observed that all along the cities were receiving most of the benefits of education at the expense of the general tax-payer. Latterly, for providing schools in villages, the general tax-payer was asked to pay an additional levy also. This was also being paid, and yet no schools were provided in villages. The speaker was of opinion that a committee might be appointed to devise ways and means for the solution of the problem and that the Government should accept their recommendations at all costs. If this was not feasible, he thought that they should provide adequate funds in some form or other for the expansion of primary education.

MR. B. S. PUTTASWAMY admitted that the local bodies were required to prepare schemes for 10 years. The reason why such schemes had not been prepared by most of them had already been explained. But, whatever the reason, until such a scheme was prepared, he asked whether it was not the duty of Government to provide necessary funds for the progress of education and if so, whether they had earmarked any funds in the budget estimates for that purpose. Because no funds had been earmarked the local bodies were not induced to prepare schemes.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL pointed out that that was an entirely incorrect view of things. To say that because there was no provision in the budget the local bodies did not send up schemes was wrong. Not one single local body had sent up a scheme according to the Regulation.

MR. B. S. PUTTASWAMY replied that so far as the Mysore District Board was concerned it had sent up a scheme.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that it must have been received only recently. In the natural course of things, a little time was necessary for its examination. If the Government had anticipated expenditure under the scheme in the ensuing year, it would have been their duty to see that money was provided for it in the budget. They had not done so because up till now not one scheme had come up to Government. If after receiving the scheme the Government refused to provide funds, then, and then only, could Government be blamed. Last year also, when the same question was raised by Mr. Dasappa in the Legislative Council, Government gave the same reply. It was not to be understood that Government had abandoned their policy. Even now they did hope to be in a position to give effect to the scheme contemplated in the Regulation.

MR. B. S. PUTTASWAMY pointed out that there was nothing in the Regulation to prevent the local boards from sending up partial schemes, and if a partial scheme was sent up, he thought the Government should provide funds to a corresponding extent.

THE DEWAN observed that the financial anticipations of the scheme had not been realised and the working of the Regulation therefore required reconsideration. He added that if the local boards could provide funds for partial schemes, the question of introducing them might be examined.

KHAN BAHADUR MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN enquired whether it would not be possible for the Government to allot some money and ask the local boards to spare their share.

THE DEWAN replied that Government would consider that suggestion, but there was no near prospect of their being able to spare any large sum for this purpose.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA enquired how many reminders had been sent to District Boards which had not sent up the schemes during the past three years.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION replied that every one of them had been reminded.

MR. BELUR SRINIVASIENGAR invited the attention of the Government to their circular issued to the Chairmen of local education boards in regard to the holding of a conference of all educational authorities and appealed to the Government to summon the meeting early, so that concrete proposals might be placed before the conference and some solution found out to obviate the difficulties.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that early action would be taken in the matter.

MR. G. MALLANNA pointed out that in some villages there was a boys' school, a girls' school and a depressed classes' school—all of one and the same grade—while some big villages had none of them. He thought that a redistribution of schools would partly satisfy the demands of the situation even without extra cost.

MR. S. C. MALLIAH, who spoke next in support of the resolution, stated that better progress in education was made in the sister States of Cochin and Travancore even without the levy of an education cess and said that similar facilities should be given here for the expansion of primary education. He enquired whether it was just to levy education cess without at the same time giving proper educational facilities.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the fact of the matter was that, so far as the Mysore District Board was concerned, it was more particular about accumulating the collections from the cess and earning interest on them than utilizing them for the spread of education.

MR. S. C. MALLIAH pointed out that the District Board of Mysore had not done that, nor could it do so without obtaining the sanction of Government. Coming to the scheme proper, he said that if there was willingness on the part of the Government any difficulty in the preparation of the scheme could be overcome. But, unfortunately, there was no such willingness, with the result that primary education suffered. He did not know how long the raiyat had to bear the burden of taxation without getting any adequate return. Supposing the raiyat sued the Government on the ground that they collected the cess but failed to fulfil its purpose, he asked what the Government would do. The position would then become very complicated and difficult of solution. He therefore thought that there was no justice in the Government not providing funds for primary education and at the same time levying education cess on the general tax-payer. He regretted that for the last three years not one school had been started. He thought that Government should help the local bodies in starting more schools without insisting on the observance of the very letter of the Regulation.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA observed that if the local bodies did not send up schemes according to the requirements of the Regulation, they should have been compelled to do so.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that according to the Regulation, the time allowed for sending up the scheme was "one year or such further time as may be given." The Regulation therefore gave permission to Government to extend the period if necessary. Having regard to the fact that the local education authorities had to work under various handicaps, it was thought necessary to give them more time to send up their schemes. There was no use, therefore, of simply criticising the Government that they did not compel the local bodies to send up their schemes. Because the local education authorities felt that the raiyats were not in a position to bear any extra taxation they naturally preferred to send, in one or two cases, only partial schemes. But, there was no good of preparing paper schemes. Government should find funds and the local bodies also should find funds. There seemed to be an

impression that all additional expenditure must be borne by Government. That was neither correct nor feasible. Next, it was stated that Government might be proceeded against for not giving educational facilities. That was not the attitude to be taken. Government would certainly try to provide funds if proposals for partial expansion on proper lines were sent up during next year. Beyond that they could say nothing.

Referring to the statement that although three years had elapsed no local body had sent up the scheme to Government, MR. V. VENKATAPPA said that the local bodies could not send up the schemes owing to non-supply of forms prescribed under the Regulation. But that apart, he requested Government to provide funds, whether the local bodies provided their share or not, so that the progress of education might not be retarded.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that it was not possible for the Government to give contributions if the local bodies did not give their share.

MR. H. B. GUNDAPPA observed that the cess collections were being funded and were yielding interest, and the local bodies were prepared to spend the interest receipts provided, the Government gave a proportionate amount, so that the cause might not suffer.

MR. J. MAHOMED IMAM suggested that in the case of the Chitaldrug District there was no prospect of constructing railways in the near future and that therefore the railway cess might be abolished and the collections so far made utilized for giving effect to the scheme of expansion of primary education.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL pointed out that that would radically affect the policy in respect of the railway cess.

But some OTHER MEMBERS were also opposed to the proposal.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY, in replying to the debate, observed that the District Boards would certainly be prepared to send up the schemes. But he regretted that Government should have said that they would not contribute anything till the local bodies gave their contributions. The state of the finances of the Boards was such that it would not be possible for them to provide funds unless they resorted to fresh taxation ; and this could not be thought of as the general tax-payer had already been overburdened. The only course open was for Government themselves to provide funds by curtailing all

avoidable items of expenditure without expecting any share from the District Boards. In fact, he felt that expenditure on Education should be the first charge on the general revenues of the State. On a previous occasion a resolution was discussed in the House recommending to the Government to earmark the savings resulting from the reduction of the subsidy for primary education. But the Government were not sympathetic towards that request and mixed up those savings with the general revenues. Again, when the Income-tax Regulation was introduced, the Government definitely said that they would utilize the receipts from income-tax for the expansion of primary education, and even that was not done. Now education cess was being collected and still the Government said that they would not provide money for primary education until the local bodies also paid their quota. At this rate he feared that for centuries to come the masses would be destined to be steeped in ignorance. He therefore requested the Government to make up their mind at least now and provide funds as prayed for in the resolution. He added that the Regulation required to be amended suitably so as to make the Government solely responsible for meeting the cost of primary education. With these words he requested the Government to accept the resolution.

The resolution, with the addition now suggested that Government should be solely responsible for primary education, was then put to vote and *lost*.

Resolution No. 16.

MR. K. VENKATASWAMI IYA then moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that they may be pleased to recover the assessment on lands at the original settlement rates as the prices of agricultural products are going down day by day and the general economic condition is likewise getting worse."

In doing so, he said that the economic condition of the raiyats was worsening from day to day. The raiyat was already groaning under the weight of both direct and indirect taxes—local, provincial and imperial. The revenue assessment had increased by about 25 to 30 per cent more than what it was before the previous settlement. Although the condition had worsened now and was in no way comparable with that existing at the time of the resettlement, no corresponding relief was shown to the raiyat. The prices of commodities had fallen to a considerable extent and

Government would not receive the assessment in kind. If they did not agree at least to increase the number of *khists*, it would become impossible for the raiyat to pay the assessment. His position was most miserable, but nobody realized it. The Government simply believed the reports furnished by local officers. It was a mistake to suppose that the raiyat was able to pay but was unwilling. The fact was that he had no money. His earning power had declined and was still declining. It might be argued that the raiyat would have relinquished his lands if he was really unable to pay the assessment. The inability was there; but if he relinquished the lands, he would have no other means of living. So, it should not be viewed that because there were no relinquishments, the economic condition of the raiyat had not worsened to such an extent as to warrant any special relief. The speaker therefore prayed that Government should accept the resolution and enable the members to carry a message of hope and relief to the raiyats. He requested that at least till the prevailing trade depression disappeared the prayer contained in the resolution be granted by Government.

MR. B. GOPALACHAR, in seconding the resolution, endorsed the views of the mover and prayed for a change in the land revenue policy itself in accordance with representations made during the past few years, and if that was not possible immediately, at least to recover the assessment at the original settlement rates.

MR. V. V. IYER also pleaded for the reduction of land revenue, the consequent fall in revenue being made up by retrenching the salaries of officers to a greater extent.

MR. MIR MAHOMED, in describing the plight of the raiyat in the malnad, said that even as estimated by the Agricultural Department, not more than 6 to 8 pallas of paddy could be grown on an acre of land. This fetched him very little money with which he had to maintain his family, his cart and bullocks, and also pay the assessment. Both dry and wet rates of assessment had been enhanced in the malnad and there were many instances of raiyats having given up cultivation as being utterly unremunerative and taken to cooly labour. He requested that those raiyats must be encouraged to take to agriculture again and very easy rates of assessment fixed on their lands. He added that the rates of assessment in general should be reduced as prayed for in the resolution.

MR. H. K. MADAIYA pointed out that it had become very difficult even for well-to-do raiyats to pay their assess-

ment. While that was so, the position of the ordinary raiyat was still worse. The assessment demanded was beyond his means. The speaker reminded the Government about the walk-out in the Assembly, some years ago, as a protest against their land revenue policy and regretted that even that had not moved the Government. Members of the Assembly had always failed to secure relief for the raiyat. He pointed out that the Central Provinces and some other Governments had given some percentage reduction in assessment, and he prayed for the same concession being shown here as prayed for in the resolution.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA observed that all the 60 lakhs of people of Mysore would feel highly grateful if the resolution was accepted by the Government.

RAO SAHIB M. RAMASWAMY drew pointed attention to the fact that the present rates of assessment were fixed at the time of resettlement on the basis of the high prices ruling then. Since then the prices had fallen considerably, and even big landholders were finding it difficult to pay the assessment. While that was the case, the difficulties of the ordinary raiyats were all the greater. If the present state of affairs continued, he was afraid that within a very short time there would be a set-back to agriculture. Hence he requested the Government to accept the resolution and give the necessary relief to the needy agriculturists.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY, in supporting the resolution, observed that Mysore being predominantly an agricultural country, the prosperity of the State depended on that of the raiyat. The impoverished condition of the Mysore raiyat did not reflect a happy state of affairs. The Government often contended that the position of the raiyats had not worsened to such an extent as to necessitate a reduction of assessment. But he thought that an impartial enquiry into his condition would reveal the real facts. He requested the Government not to be guided away by the reports furnished by their officers, as they were all one-sided. He emphasized that the raiyat was really in a miserable plight and that immediate relief was called for.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA reminded the Government of their promise made at a previous session of the House to the effect that they would consider the question of showing concessions to the raiyat if the level of prices continued to show signs of decline. Accordingly he requested the Government to show the necessary concessions to the raiyat. It might be argued against the resolution that resettlements did not always mean

enhancement of assessment and that sometimes it had actually been reduced. But the number of such cases was very small. In the majority of cases the rates were enhanced. However, he requested that wherever the rates had been reduced already they might be kept on at the same level in future also, and wherever they had been enhanced they might be reduced to the pre-settlement level.

MR. CHANNAMAKE GOWDA observed that if the agriculturist who was the mainstay of the Government went to ruin, the administration could not get on. It was therefore necessary that his interests should be safeguarded. The raiyat had no subsidiary occupations to supplement his earnings from agriculture. He had to maintain from his poor earnings his family, carts and bullocks in addition pay the heavy kandayam also. His condition therefore required to be re-examined and necessary relief provided immediately.

MR. H. B. GUNDAPPA, in supporting the resolution, observed that it was a very important one and had to be considered sympathetically by the Government. The miseries of the raiyat were well known and did not require to be restated. Even officers holding lands felt it very difficult to pay assessment though they had an assured source of income. Much more therefore was the difficulty in the case of the raiyat having no such assured source of income. The raiyat had to depend for everything only upon the yield from his land. But it fetched abnormally low prices. At such an abnormal time, coercive measures were being adopted for the collection of revenue though the Government had promised concessions. In one case a land had been auctioned for the recovery of a balance of Rs. 3 though a large portion of the revenue demand had been already paid. It was not that the raiyat concerned was unwilling to pay, but he was unable to pay. In so many villages, the raiyats were having only one meal a day; they could not afford a second meal. And yet their prayers for relief had so far been mere cries in the wilderness. In some cases even plough bullocks had been attached for the recovery of assessment. The Amildars were eager to collect revenue in order to gain favour from the higher officers, and so they resorted to coercive measures, sometimes even prematurely. These instances showed in what a pitiable plight the raiyat was and to what extent he required relief immediately. For hundreds of years he had been paying kandayam but now, owing to severe trade depression and other economic causes, he was in very straightened circumstances. At such

a time it was the duty of Government to help him. At one of the previous sessions the Government had promised relief if the same conditions continued for a year more; conditions remained the same but no relief was however shown. He was of opinion that adequate relief should be given to the raiyats, whatever loss of revenue it might mean.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER, replying on behalf of the Government, observed that the resolution raised a too large question and requested the members not to understand from what he was going to say that the Government were unsympathetic to their demands. On the other hand he assured them that Government were well aware of the difficulties of the raiyats and fully sympathised with them.

The resolution stated that the assessment should be recovered at the original settlement rates. That would not be possible; and the resolution as worded therefore could not be accepted by Government for the following main reasons:—

1. Survey and settlement being in vogue for the past 60-70 years, and if all at once the system were to be changed, it would entail a lot of difficulties and place the Government in an embarrassing situation.

2. If the resolution was given effect to, the loss of revenue would be about Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs, and he would ask the members to consider if in the present financial stringency such a step was desirable.

3. To go back upon the settlement rates meant a change in the land revenue policy itself. Such a thing had not been done anywhere in British India. No doubt in some places the Governments concerned might have given temporary concessions to the raiyats to the extent possible according to their own circumstances. But, no Government had gone back on the settlement itself.

The gist of the discussion on the resolution was that some special relief should be shown to the raiyat. What concessions should be shown and to what extent they should be shown had been indicated in the instructions issued already to subordinate officers. For instance, in regard to the recovery of assessment, strict instructions had been issued not to adopt coercive measures unless they were found to be absolutely necessary. It might be that in some hard cases also coercive processes were adopted, but they were, if true, only exceptions. It was no delight for officers to harass the raiyats. Generally speaking, the action of officers was within the rules and orders issued from time to time. If there were any cases of departure from those rules and

instructions, it was quite open to the raiyats to lay their grievances before the Sub-Division Officer, the Deputy Commissioner and the Government. All these ways were open to the raiyats to get redress. At the same time, there was no gainsaying the fact that it had become somewhat difficult for the raiyats to pay kandayam. But their condition was not so bad as was depicted in the House. In a majority of cases the assessment was recovered lawfully and without recourse to coercive processes. Very often, concessions were shown to the raiyats. In addition, large grants for tank restoration, land improvement loans and takavi loans were provided. Loan collections had been deferred, so much so that the Government were not getting back even 30 per cent of the amounts due. They were not putting pressure at all to recover the amounts due to Government such as tank maintenance charges, other contribution, etc. In a certain taluk the total demand due to be paid to the Government amounted to six lakhs; all the dues could have been collected if only the officers had made up their minds to do so; but they did not do it. That showed that the Government were showing concessions and affording relief wherever possible.

MANY MEMBERS enquired in how many cases of inconvenience and difficulties brought to the notice of Amildars and Sub-Division Officers, relief had been granted to the raiyats.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER replied that during his tour in all the districts, nobody had complained that hardships had not been listened to and relief given. And all at once, now to accept the suggestion that the present assessment rates should be reduced to the level of the original settlement was not practicable. However, as already stated, Government fully realised that the times were very difficult and Government would continue to show concessions as circumstances demanded.

MR. K. VENKATASWAMI AIYA, in replying to the debate, observed that the reply of the Revenue Commissioner was in no way more encouraging than that given on previous occasions. Because other Governments had not reverted to original settlement rates, there was no reason why Mysore should not do it and set an example for others to follow. The request contained in the resolution was a very modest one. It only meant that resettlement rates should be suspended for a temporary period. There was therefore no question of unsettling a system which had come to stay.

Again, it had been argued that the loss on account of reduction of assessment would amount to such a huge figure

as Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 lakhs and, therefore, it would not be possible for the Government to forego that big amount in the present financial condition of the State. But the speaker did not know how such a necessary relief could be denied when the Government could afford to write off losses to the extent of several lakhs of rupees every year. For instance, during a certain year the Government wrote off, by one stroke of the pen, a huge sum of Rs. 84 lakhs, being the losses incurred on the Bhadravati Iron Works. He pointed out that the real asset of the State was the raiyat and not all those losing concerns and all the fine buildings which the Government were constructing or beautifying. While the value of the buildings and concerns could be assessed only in terms of rupees, annas and pies, that of a prosperous and contented raiyat was beyond calculation. It was therefore the duty of the Government to keep the raiyats contented. He therefore appealed to the Government to give the relief prayed for and fulfil the promise held out on past occasions.

The resolution was then put to vote and *passed* unanimously.

At this stage, the House rose for the day to meet again at 12 noon the next day.